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**FEDERAL PUBLIC OFFICIAL SENTENCED FOR
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BRIBERY**

Baltimore, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today United States District Judge Frederick J. Motz sentenced Frank McCreary, age 42, of Crofton, Maryland to 1 year and 1 day in prison followed by 2 years of supervised release in connection with his guilty plea to conspiracy to commit bribery.

McCreary was a Realty Specialist with the Real Estate Property Management Section of the Loan Guaranty Division of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Office in Baltimore, Maryland. McCreary's duties included soliciting bids from and awarding contracts to contractors for repair work to VA owned houses. Co-defendant Carmelo Vizzi, age 48, of Perry Hall, was the sole owner of Carmelo Contracting, Inc., a home improvement business that bid on contracts offered by the VA involving repairs to houses subject to foreclosure on VA loans.

According to the statement of facts contained in the plea agreements, between November 1999 and January 2003, McCreary steered property repair contracts to Vizzi in exchange for money. Where work to be performed on a contract exceeded a certain dollar value, approved contractors were required to submit sealed bids to the VA. Vizzi bribed McCreary by paying him between \$250 and \$600 per contract awarded depending on the value of the contract. In return, Vizzi received inside information on the lowest bid so he could underbid the competition. The profit to Vizzi's contracting company from sealed bid jobs awarded by McCreary that Vizzi received in exchange for cash payments to McCreary was approximately \$355,462. McCreary also created fictitious invoices and submitted them to the VA for payment. Vizzi gave McCreary one-third of the payment he received for processing the fictitious invoices.

Vizzi previously pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery and was sentenced to 2 years in prison.

The criminal charges are the result of an investigation by the Veterans Administration-IG and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted Assistant U.S. Attorney Bonnie S. Greenberg.